

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10282 070523Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /027 W
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O R 051313Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2591
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10282

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 10282 VICE 1082)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP: SUGGESTED TOAST

REF: STATE 165179

1. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT A FORMAL ARRIVAL STATE-
MENT WILL BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE. IT IS, HOW-
EVER, THE USUAL INDIAN PRACTICE TO OFFER FORMAL
TOASTS AT STATE DINNERS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE
SOME SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE
GOI'S DINNER IN HONOR OF THE UNDER SECRETARY, JULY
12, WILL BE HOSTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE, WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED
TOAST WICH MR. NEWSOM WOULD OFFER FOLLOWING THAT OF
VAJPAYEE.

2. BEGIN TOAST ...
FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE.....LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
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FRIENDS:

I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S
WORDS OF WELCOME. IT IS AN HONOR AS WEEL AS A PLEASURE
FOR ME TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE MANY AMERICANS WHO HAVE
COME TO INDIA IN RECENT MONTHS AND WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
APPRECIATE FIRST-HAND THE FRIENDLY WARMTH OF INDIAN
HOSPITALITY. MUCH HAS BEEN SAID -- AND RIGHTLY SO --

ABOUT THE MORAL VALUE WHICH WE SHARE AND WHICH ARE THE REAL BASIS OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES. WE SHOULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT A COMMONALITY OF PRINCIPLES DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT TWO PEOPLES AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL SHARE COMMON PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS. IN THE CASE OF THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OUR HISTORIES AS WELL AS OUR CURRENT SITUATIONS ARE IN MANY WAYS DISSIMILAR. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS A DEEPLY GRATIFYING FACT THAT ON MOST OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERN THE WORLD COMMUNITY, INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE SIMILAR PERCEPTIONS. THUS OUR FRIENDSHIP WHICH RESTS ON A BEDROCK OF COMMON VALUES IS BUTTRESSED BY SIMILAR PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. THIS HAS PARTICULAR RELEVANCE FOR SOUTH ASIA, WHICH AS YOU KNOW, I AM NOW VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY NEW POSITION.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND YOU, MR. VAJPAYEE, INDIA HAS EMBARKED ON A BOLD POLICY OF STRENGTHENING ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. THE UNITED STATES KNOWS THROUGH ITS OWN EXPERIENCE THAT A "GOOD NEIGHBOR" POLICY, SURPRISING THOUGH IT MAY SEEM, IS NOT ALWAYS THE EASIEST TO PURSUE. WE HAVE FOUND THAT AS A LARGE COUNTRY OUR COMMITMENT TO SUCH A POLICY IS OFTEN VIEWED SKEPTICALLY BY SMALLER COUNTRIES. FOR ITS PART THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE SUCCESSFULLY TO

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PROVE ITS BONA FIDES IN STRENGTHENING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. THE NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES CAPABLE OF AND INTENT ON SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP. IN OUR VIEW, THE RESULT OF SUCH A POLICY CAN ONLY BE INCREASED STABILITY AND ENHANCED PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR EVERYONE. PERMIT ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT, MR. MINISTER, ON YOUR SUCCESS AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH ASIA FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN LIGHTS CONTINUES TO BE POSSIBLE.

MAY I REITERATE, MR. MINISTER, MY GRATITUDE TO YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR YOUR WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY. THE TALKS WHICH WE HAVE HAD WILL AID ME IMMEASURABLY, AS I PLUNGE FURTHER INTO MY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AT HOME.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WOULD THEREFORE ASK YOU TO RAISE YOUR GLASSES WITH ME IN A TOAST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDIA AND TO THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE INDIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. THANK YOU. END TOAST.

GOHEEN

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